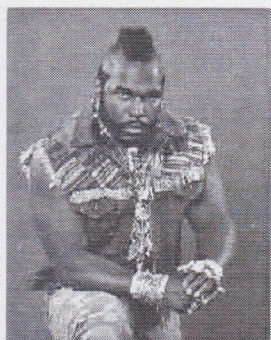


THE TOUGH GUY TIMES

Your Source for Everything Tough Guy

FREE

Issue 1

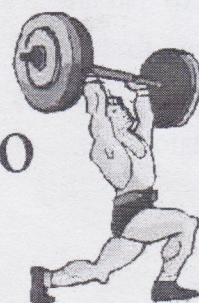


Read this or
ELSE!!!!!!



Interviews with: Sworn Enemy, Desperate Measures, American Murder Story

Also: weightlifting, reviews, anti emo rants, jerseys and so much more





Greetings. This is the first issue of my new fanzine. The zine will mostly cover REAL hardcore. If you have to ask if what you listen to is real hardcore then it is most likely not. There will be none of the fake bullshit that has so insidiously invaded the scene of late. Keep in mind that this is a fanzine (and thus isn't going to be overly aesthetically pleasing) and that most of it is tongue in cheek. So take it as you will. I hope to publish this

about every 3 to 4 months. If you have any comments send 'em to xxxpainedge99xxx@yahoo.com or aim me at xxxxxxseanmxxxxx. Keep it core.

Zine Mission Statement:

This is a fanzine done exclusively about REAL hardcore. This is my ever so small contribution to bringing back the hardcore that I knew from when I first became part of the scene. Even though the task is daunting it can be done. Hell....Moses parted the Red Sea (how's that for a self indulgent comparison)....all I am interested in doing is seeing all the numerous fancy haired fakes choke on their five gallons of hair spray. Some would argue that there are many facets to hardcore. I say those kids need to take their prog rock art house shit and euthanize themselves with their bongo drums. Real hardcore consists of 3 chords played in a fast manner ala 88 style old school or tough as nails NYHC. NOTHING MORE NOTHING LESS.

This zine will cover a variety of topics.

It will cover basically whatever I feel like writing about that month. This issue will cover weightlifting, a discussion of jerseys, interviews, lots of reviews and other random shit.

My goal is to expose the reader to things he or she hasn't seen before. To me it seemed like there weren't any zines that catered to my interests. There were punk zines or youth crew zines or indie rock zines or trendy zines.

However there were very few (that lasted) that talked about NYHC. Also when I first started out in the scene everyone lifted weights, wore jerseys, got tatoos etc..... I miss those days.



Editorials

I first conceived the idea of this zine while I was overseas serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. There were long stretches of boredom in between strenuous working. During the down time I wrote most of this zine, minus of course the interviews.



I was originally going to touch upon the idiocy of the conflict. However I will now just mention it in passing. Where are the WMD? Haven't found even a one yet. We know he has a few though. He gassed the Kurds in the North with toxic gas we sold him in the Iran-Iraq war. The Iraqi army is an imminent threat? We bulldozed them in a matter of weeks. We are now there to bring democracy and freedom? Hmmmm the irony of a foreign occupying power bringing freedom through occupation. If this is the new standard for war then when do we invade Ethiopia. It will only cost a few billion and require a very short occupation? Meanwhile the cost is over \$100 billion dollars and counting, and 120,000 troops will be stationed their for the next 3 to 5 years. Don't even get me started on the sweetheart no bid deals given out to some of the presidents biggest campaign contributors (Bechtel and Halliburton). OK enough ranting.

What I really wanted to touch upon was the positive aspects of the war. I met some really awesome friends for life over there. The army is a bonding experience par none. These are guys you served with and lived with 24 hours a day for 11 months. There are of course some you wish you'd never had the unpleasant pleasure of meeting. Overall though a great group of guys.

I saw things that kids my age will never see. I lived in 150 degree heat. I experienced sandstorms which are akin to a sand blizzard. I did construction work for the first time. I saw scorpions, snakes, huge lizards and other exotic wildlife....sometimes too close for comfort. I lived in tents with 20 other guys. I lived on a kuwaiti tanker base. I was in a country that is thousands of miles away from home.



The war also meant I was well compensated. I made enough to easily do this free fanzine and start up a record label with my brother. Also I am now classified as a war veteran and thus get even more benefits. Not that you should join for the money. Trust me its not worth it. I lost alot in regards to this deployment. I lost an engineering coop job, my apt, dropped out of school, a girlfriend and 11 months of my life.

It sucked to be there.....but I got alot out of it. I matured and experienced things that I had only heard about from people like my grandfather. It wasnt the most dangerous of assignments (our trucks only came under fire once.....a drive bye shooting shot up two of our trucks). Originally though we were supposed to be in the thick of things with the 4th ID coming down from Turkey. Turkey nixed this idea though, funny how fate works. Just don't forget about the troops. I know it is easy to disregard all those stories buried in the newspapers about another dead GI. Regardless of your thoughts on the war keep them in your thoughts. Thanks.



SWORN ENEMY

I had the privilege of interviewing Mike from sworn enemy before their feb 15th show in buffalo, ny. Their new album was definitely one of the best releases in a long time. I knew though that the show would have some sketchy dudes coming out just to fight....and lo and behold there must have been 15 fights that night. However the show was amazing fights or no.

SEAN: Since you were in cold as life I will start off by asking you if you remember the show you guys played in rochester about 6 years ago?

MIKE: Its kinda weird. I remember alot about that show. It was in a church hall right? Our guitar player who is like a dire alcoholic, Johnny, the infamous Johnny hate, wouldnt go inside the venue. He would just stay in the van. He was drinking jim beam. So we finally forced him in. You've got to go warm up and play your guitar. We dragged him in there. He wouldnt talk to none of us. He would only talk to, there was a priest who had a flask of whiskey, so johnny automatically made

buddies with him. Then there was a midget over there, the he midget. I can't remember his name. He was cool as fuck. We chilled with him all night. We went to the bar with him, chilled all night. He would only talk with them two. He hated the rest of us all night. He was a jerk.

SEAN: Who are you....and who else is in the band?

MIKE: I'm Mike I play bass. That kid that just walked by is the perfect prince salvatore lacoco. Hes the singer. Lorenzo guitar player. Mike guitar player. Paulie hes the drummer, he played in everybody gets hurt. He played with sworn enemy back in the day too. They call him paulie no neck cuz he has no neck.

SEAN: Give me the history of sworn enemy?

MIKE: Sworn enemy started with sal singing, lorenzo and mike as guitar players. They had many rotating members. They played in a bunch of different bands like Downfall like originally. They were in Mindset which is way more well known, especially in nyc and the whole north east area. Kinda when they got more

serious, they were talking with Jamey about putting out the record. They found out that there was another Mindset or maybe a few more when they were doing the name search. Thats how the name got changed to sworn enemy. They did the Negative Outlook cd. Like I said paulie plays in egh, he would play with them from time to time. Eventually when cold as life broke up I came into the band. I've been playing in the band for 2 and 1/2 years, this summer it will be three years. And we've been basically touring the whole time.

SEAN: Now that you guys recently signed to elektra, how did that happen? Is it working out for you guys? Are they diy related?

MIKE: Definitely not diy related. There are ups and downs to everything. This is our first step in our first cd. The biggest thing that made us happy was that our cd was actually availabel in stores to kids. We've never had that you know. Stillborn before, Jamey is getting bigger and bigger now, but before it was barely in 10 or 20 stores around the country know what I mean. Anytime we would have cds they would sell out so quick on the road, by the time we would get to some place in the middle of nowhere that everyone wanted a cd, we would have nothing. We'd be touring again, no advertisement, not signed, have no records, you know what I mean. Kids would forget about you as quick as you'd get in their face. Definitely we got the deal from Jamey. Always looking out. Hes breaking down the doors. Hes basically the new spokesperson for metal. Hardcore is basically becoming metal. Metal is on the rise again. Big ups to Jamey for looking out. If it wasn't for Jamey no one would have ever heard of sworn enemy. All these



fucking kids with no respect that dont know nothing would've never known of SOIA or AF or madball know what I mean. Hes done alot.

SEAN: Now that your on a major label do they ask you to do anything differently? Obviously you get more tour support.....

MIKE: HAHHAHA, No we barely get any tour support. And when we do it ends up fixing our van or paying this debt or that debt that we fucking incur. The reason we have survived as a band basically is from our merch, hustling our gear and shit. Or else we probably wouldn't have been able to made it to this point. Especially doing supporting tours. Going around the country for \$100. Feeding everyone, gas, tolls, someone wants to get beers, this nigga wants to fucking do this and that. Basically the biggest thing with elektra was that they were the distro. They payed for us to get on Ozzfest. They never worked our record hard. They dont care. What we've sold as a band we might think wow that is alot for a hardcore band. To them that is nothing. They could give a fuck. I think they kinda overlooked alot of the diy channels how kids get records or mom and pop stores. Our records are definitely too expensive in a lot of stores. I think best buy and tower keep it pretty decent around 10 or 12 dollars. But FYE are ridiculous like 17 18 or 19 dollars. Thats kind of ridiculous you know. It definitely has its ups and downs. As far as being in touch with the grass roots community, its up to us and Jamey to keep that alive. Thats a big important thing to us. Thats the whole foundation of what we do.

SEAN: Such as this interview

MIKE: Right



SEAN: You guys have toured with some major acts, you did Ozzfest, you've toured with Hatebreed, and now your headlining tours. How have your tours been going?

MIKE: Definitely doing the support with all these big bands, one of the things we are blessed with is that we have toured with alot of bands that we looked up to as kids. Some of which might have been our friends before, some of which became our friends, some of which are people we look up to. We've gone out with Biohazard, Soulfly, DRI, Six Feet Under, of course madball thats our people, and SOIA. We got to go out with Slayer. Arch Enemy might come out with us. Hes a guitar hero of mine. We got to tour with Soulfly, got to tour with alot of people that we looked up to. Thats really cool. We never really did our own tours until recently. We headlined for the first time with bleeding through and the takeover. It was not on the east coast at all. We stayed out of basically every major market cuz we had just played them. All except LA and San Diego. Everything else was like LaCrosse (wisconsin) and oklahoma city. It was all kind of in the middle of nowhere. This is our first headlining run of major markets. We're pretty psyched. The bill is awesome. We've had 7 sell outs so far. Its a month long tour. Yesterday was our 7th sellout. Thats one out of every four shows sold out. We're extremely happy. We're starting to see some of the grueling and grueling shit

we've done for the last 2 and 1/2 years, its just like ahhh I hope this pays off. It seems like we're starting to see the results a little bit now, and we're happy about that.

SEAN: You've got a somewhat more different crowd now, you get alot of newer younger kids, numetal type kids they're just starting to get introduced to hardcore and metal and stuff. Do you notice that the hardcore kids are sort of stuck up and purposely target these new kids. Throw them a beatdown and sort of give you guys a bad name?

MIKE: Well its like, everyone has to start at some point. Everyone has to come in and learn. You get into metal at a point in your life. Its not the kids fault hes 12, I was 12 once. Anyone was 12 once and its cool new kids are getting into it. But theres no really distinct lines between hardcore kids and metalheads because I see dumbass hardcore kids and dumbass metal kids who dont know a fucking thing. I see metal heads who are loyal as fuck fans that know their shit. Hardcore kids who have been around since day zero that know whats up. So theres no real black and white distinctions between it. I think hardcore is the mixture between metal and punk rock, or hardcore and metal. Its kind of like a fusion of two anyways. I mean we all like slayer, we all like cro mags. Yeah sometimes I see kids who know how to dance fuck up



kids and shit. Hope that doesnt give us a bad name. We want everyone to come out and have a good time. Everyone has to learn at some point. However just as many dumb kids that might have heard of slipknot and are now starting to get into hardcore bands, there are kids who have heard of zao and never heard of madball. Kids that heard of Terror but never heard of Agnostic Front. Not nothing on anything on them bands. Cuz Terror, I love Terror. Scott Vogel is my people and shit, but these new kids that know of them but they dont know what went on before them, theres dumbasses on both sides.

SEAN: How is the queens scene?

MIKE: Good, I mean the NYC scene in general has always been a mecca for hardcore. I think as much as some of it has dwindled down a bit, due to a lack of clubs. Its kind of like theres either really small shows or really big shows. No medium shows. Its like the middle class/working class, your either poor or rich right now. Its kind of the same way with shows ya know, and bands even too. Its funny because I feel like some of the great bands aren't so appreciated here because people feel like they can see them all the time. Bands like Murphys Law, SOIA, and Harley will go out and play shows. Sometimes they are almost not appreciated there, but then they go out and they'll be fucking rock stars any where else they go around the country, europe, or japan. Then they go to NYC and its like people dont respect as much. Its easy to burn yourself out over there. Thats why on this tour we skipped it. We aint playing til our new record comes out.

SEAN: Are there any local bands that people should know about?

MIKE: Always props to EGH, they've been around for ever. Billyclub sandwich, Irate thats all our people, Full Blown Chaos, Through the Discipline. Lots of good bands coming up. Agents of Man from NJ. They used to be in Bulldoze and Train of thought. They are a little more melodic but they still have that hard shit and flavor.

SEAN: Hardcore is always changing, do you think it has changed for the better or the worse?

MIKE: A bit of both to be honest, like this tour for example there were one or two shows where I was starting to lose faith. I felt like I couldnt relate with alot of these new kids, or I feel

like damn hardcore is dead. Then there have been shows where I was like they made me feel better. One major difference, when I started to go to shows I was about 11. I'm young I'm 24. I started going to shows in like 91. When I would go to shows what I remembered is that shows were fucking scary. I was fucking afraid when I went to a show, and that was half the fucking fun. Shows were way more brutal back in the day. I think alot of these kids now with their smart ass comments and quick to fucking dis and dismiss. I dont think alot of these kids have any clue. These people stood up against boneheads or nazis or jocks or big bouncers to make hardcore what it is today. Safe, safe to go to a show. At the same time thats cool to. Kids should be able to come out and have a good time and shit. There are some things that are better and some things that are worse. Definitely more girls at shows thats alot cooler. I remember it used to be so brutal girls wouldn't go out to shows.

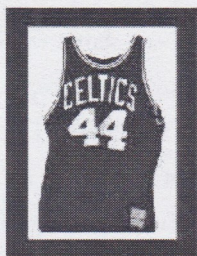
SEAN: Do you lift weights? If so how do you lift on tour?

MIKE: Quite honestly we are a bunch of lazy fucking douches. Sal is pretty athletic when he goes home. He likes to play sports and shit. Lorenzo he used to be really big. Hes fat now. He drinks too much beer. Hes on the atkins diet. He doesn't eat bread he just drinks beer instead. Paulie is naturally huge, thats why he used to be called Paulie no neck. He used to play football. Fucking Raff he is a maniac. I was trying to work out. Yeah I was for awhile pretty good about it. Especially on Ozzfest. Shadows fall had makeshift weights and a bench. Then I broke my ankle.

SEAN: Any last words?

MIKE: Basically I am psyched that metal is coming back and shit. I think that good hard music is getting more recognition. I just wish some of these kids that come along, I think that some will be gone in a year. They'll be ravers. The really stupid ones that is. I think the other ones will start learning their history. I remember when I was a little kid I always wanted to hear about back in the day, or how shit was. I kind of grew up in the middle when it wasnt so big. It always meant something to me. I hope that it means something to them. That they look at their roots a bit, so that they go into the future in the right direction. Its a way of life.....IT AINT FRIENDSTER OR MYSPACE.

<http://www.swornenemynyc.com/>



JERSEYS



We here at THE TOUGHGUY TIMES decided to do a random poll of the american public and the hardcore scene to find out what people think of jerseys in general. The results may startle you. This poll is not scientific in any way.....in fact there is a very good chance the results were just made up.



Do jerseys on a guy turn you on? (women)

*84% of McDonalds workers answered yes

*12% of those above 65 answered yes

*100% of hardcore girls answered in the affirmative

Do jerseys increase your pit dancing prowess? (moshers)

*15% of those who weigh 150lbs or less answered yes

*98% of those who weigh over 200lbs said yes

*78% of tatoored respondents agreed

*0% of guys who wear girl pants agreed

Which sport has the best jerseys?

*96% of people who enjoy FATA emphatically stated that Ice Skating has the sweetest jersey/uniforms.

*46% of those with chinstrap beards picked basketball jerseys

*78% of those who go regularly to the gym also said basketball

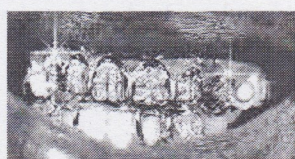
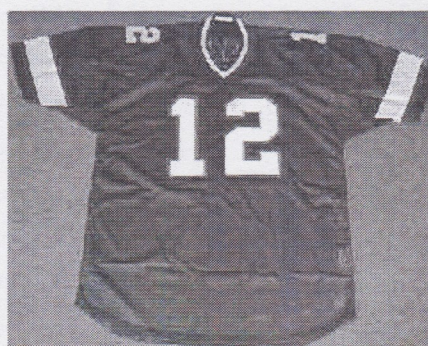
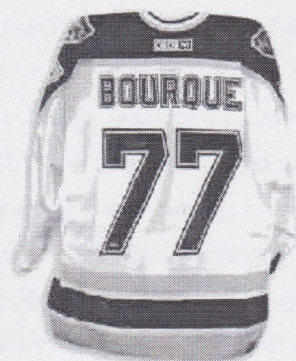
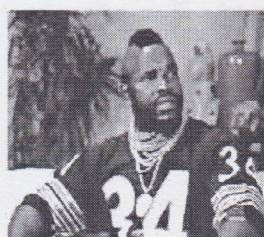
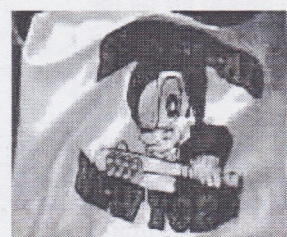
*35% of Nebraska residents said football jerseys are the best

Can you play in a hardcore band without having at least one jersey in your possession?

*99% of respondents at a saves the day show say yes

*54% of guys in "the scene" with long emo hair responded by saying "what is hardcore....???"

*I SAY FUCK NO! And my opinion is the only one that matters.



The Mutant Brady Bunch

Meet Salt Lake City's clean-cut, anti-drug street gang—and tremble



STRAIGHT EDGER: Haselton says his group gets its "rush" from fighting

By **STEVE LOPEZ** SALT LAKE CITY

THINGS DIDN'T QUITE WORK OUT FOR Josh Anderson in the Mormon church. Nor did a nondenominational Christian upbringing light the way for Randy Haselton. But neither teen gave up entirely on structure and clean living in Utah. The boys hooked up with Straight Edge, an anti-drug gang of middle-class kids, and discovered new passions. Josh became a vegan and firebombed a McDonald's; Randy enjoys beating the tar out of people.

When the Olympics come to Salt Lake City in 2002, the phrase "Let the Games begin" may take on a whole new meaning. Randy, 19, has been known to wield a samurai sword and says, in the spirit of true sportsmanship, "You know that if you've hit a kid in the head with a bat and he drops, you don't hit him again." Josh, now 20, is probably not the best guy to run through Salt Lake with the Olympic torch. He has no regrets about taking down that

McDonald's. He is probably going to cool it from now on, though, he said recently, as he and his fiancé prepared to be married by a Mormon bishop.

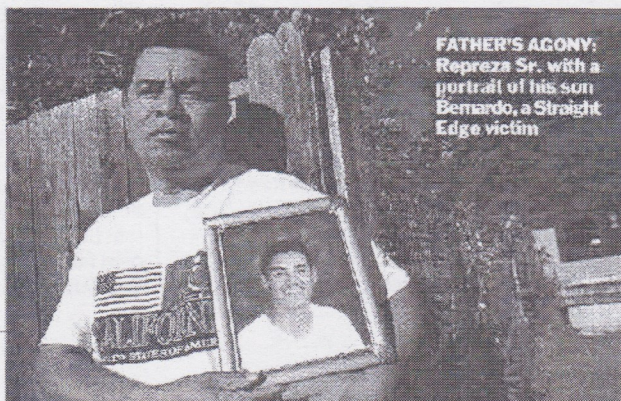
What next, Amish teens slashing car tires with garden hoes?

Salt Lake City has a problem far more interesting than tornadoes and gold-medal scandals. Some would have you believe that if you bite into a burger or light a cigarette in the Utah capital, you risk being pummeled by one or more of an estimated 50 to 100 Straight Edge kids, and there might not be a more terrifying image than marauding teens who look like the tattooed, mutant kin of the Brady Bunch. The

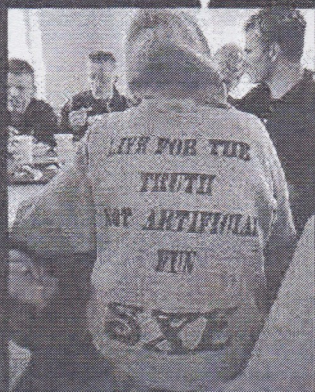
threat, fortunately, turns out to be an exaggeration. But Mormon Elder Alexander Morrison, fearing that Straight Edge could lure teenagers because it shares some philosophies with the church, uses three words to sum up a warning he sent to church leaders: "Steer them clear."

It is unclear how Salt Lake City, of all places, wound up with the most crime-happy crew within Straight Edge, an unstructured international movement of young people, many of them pacifists who don't get high or sleep around and would never dream of calling themselves gang members. Even Utah's nonviolent Straight Edgers, who constitute the vast majority of the state's several hundred members, are clueless as to what went wrong here.

Maybe it's just that in Utah, joining a social order devoted to clean living doesn't exactly distinguish you. Firebombing meat and leather outlets, using pipe bombs on a fur-trading office and setting minks free, however—as Straight Edgers and closely linked animal liberationists have been accused of doing over the



FATHER'S AGONY: Repreza Sr. with a portrait of his son Bernardo, a Straight Edge victim



EDGER DOS:

- Enter the mosh pit at concerts (but don't hurt anyone)
- Think about ways of saving Planet Earth
- Resist the vulgarities and excesses of popular culture

EDGER DON'TS:

- Drink alcohol or get high on drugs
- Be promiscuous or behave like "a slut"
- Be a thug (unless you live in Utah)



his political purpose. Josh Anderson at least has a cause. He says he drifted to Straight Edge, and the hard-core, punk rock-like music that is part of the scene, after his mother was ostracized by the Mormon church for coming out as a lesbian. He listened to a band named Earth Crisis, read books on animal liberation and became a vegan. One night in 1996, he and some Straight Edge mates drove by a McDonald's still under construction. "We joked and said it would be neat if we burned it down," he says. And so they did, going in with gasoline cans. "I had a Molotov cocktail. I waited until everyone was out in the car. I threw it and ran."

This was a vegan act and not Straight Edge, says Josh, who has completed probation. Asked why Utah Straight Edgers are prone to violence, he says, "Maybe because this isn't the most exciting town, and a lot of kids need a cause."

But it's not the violent fringe that interests University of Utah assistant professor Theresa Martinez. It's the nonviolent majority. "Thank God someone is coming out and saying we need structure," says Martinez, whose Straight Edge e-mail pals tell of alienation and disillusionment. Ryan Spelley, 26, a teaching assistant at the

past several years—tend to drop you from consideration for membership in the church choir.

It is possible that more light will be shed on the subject next month, when the first of three Straight Edgers goes on trial for the murder last Halloween of Bernardo Repreza Jr., 15, a Hispanic youth. Repreza, whose father moved here from California to get his son away from violence, was attacked with a bat, a knife and police batons. "I don't understand," Bernardo Repreza Sr. says of a bizarre culture in which having a beer is taboo but clubbing someone to death is A-O.K. "It's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard."

Local police say Repreza and some buddies got into an exchange of taunts with kids on the street. Police insist it was neither gang related nor racially motivated, but in the brawl that ensued, Straight Edgers squared off against non-Straight Edgers, and racial slurs were heard.

With the Olympics coming to town, "some people are trying to downplay [the Straight Edge threat]," says James Yapias, a correctional and educational consultant. Others suggest that the group would get more attention if the bad guys were black or

Hispanic. Nonsense, say police. Of the 200 gang-related felonies last year in Salt Lake County, only three were by Straight Edgers. They might be the oddest gang, but they're not the baddest. They don't even have guns.

Randy Haselton, who has multiple arrests for fighting, says Edgers won't back down if anyone "talks sh_." But as for cruising around looking to beat people up, he says, "that's a lot of crap."

"Yes, and it's just by coincidence," mocks Salt Lake County sheriff's deputy Brad Harmon, "that if something happens, they've got samurai swords, chains and knives in the trunk."

"I'm not going to say we haven't started fights," Randy admits. "We don't do drugs. We get our rush from fights."

Last year, outside a pizza joint, University of Utah student Mike Orthner says, "I asked a stranger for a light, and he said, 'We don't believe in that.'" Next thing Orthner knew, he was clocked with brass knuckles, and "some wacko" was waving a sword. Assault charges against Randy, who claimed he "didn't hit anybody with it," were dropped for lack of evidence.

For all his willingness to pound his chest, Randy is utterly unable to articulate

University of Utah and a longtime Straight Edger and pacifist, says the organization constitutes a rebellion against a culture that glorifies heroin chic and the idea that you have to smoke or wear Guess? jeans to be cool.

But as gang-force detectives Robin Howell and Troy Siebert pull up to a perfect tract house in suburban Kearns on an assault investigation, imagine the horror of John Lim, a mail carrier who has tried to steer his three sons clear of Straight Edge. The detectives are in Lim's garage now, breaking down his stepson Jesse, 20, with a splendid good-cop, bad-cop routine. Jesse admits throwing a pipe at another kid during a fight at a cemetery, but he downplays the gravity of what police are culling a possible felony assault and swears that he is not a Straight Edger.

"Oh, yes, he is," his father says, emerging from the house. And so are Jesse's two brothers, Lim adds with regret. Jesse, outed as a tough guy, tells all to the cops, a quiver in his throat. If he goes to jail instead of going on the Mormon mission abroad that he's been counting on, Lim says, it's his own fault. "I sure wish I understood what this Straight Edge was all about." ■

DESPERATE MEASURES



Desperate Measures recently played in Buffalo on Feb 7th. They are an awesome band from the maryland area. I had the privelege of interviewing the singer Ryan after their set. We held the interview over in a corner while him and a few of his boys were rolling some dice and gambling.

Sean: Tell me about your band?

Ryan: We're from maryland/washington dc area. We've been together since 2001. I, Ryan, sing. Dean plays drums. John plays bass. Danny D plays guitars. Right now our fifth member Eric lives in texas.

Sean: You guys just released an album on youngblood records. Are you ever going to jump to a bigger label?

Ryan: No, we've been talked to by bigger labels. I mean Sean takes really good care of us. He's always honest with us. He hooks us up with burnt cd's. Yeah it is a small label but when you are really good friends with a guy, and you know we're not in it to become rock stars, we're just

in it to have a good time and to play shows. We're able to do that on Youngblood, and still sell alot of stuff and put cd's and stuff out. So no, Youngblood is where we are at.

Sean: You guys tour pretty extensively, I've seen you twice in Rochester, are you guys in any other bands?

Ryan: No, no one in DM is in any other bands. We're all committed to this band. I mean, thats not a rule, but its sort of an unspoken rule. That we are only in one band together. I think it is sorta hard when you have members shared with other bands. Because then they cant put their full effort into one thing. Thats the way we try and do it.

Sean: You guys have been around for awhile, have you



noticed as you get more well known, that you get a better response?

Ryan: Yeah, alot of shows at first were just our friends. The first time we played there it would be like 4 or 5 kids, just our friends. But now every city its new faces singing along and dancing. Theres no better feeling in the world than having people sing your lyrics and dancing and going off to your band. More and more we play out and the more and more time we are around, its just fucking amazing the response we get. I appreciate every aspect of it.

Sean: You are from the DC area...how is the scene there?

Ryan: The scene here is actually really good. It sucks at this point because striking distance broke up like a month ago, and thats really shitty on that part. Other than that though the scene is really good. Theres alot of up and coming bands in the area. Thats what really keeps the scene going: new bands



and new kids coming out. So as of that the DC scene is really awesome, and the maryland scene too I think.

Sean: Are there any lesser known bands from your area that deserve some recognition and our support?

Ryan: Theres alot of bands. A couple from Richmond called Murder Weapon and Down to Nothing. Well, Down to Nothing have been around for awhile. The Aftermath. There was a band Crime Spree, but they just broke up. Worn Thin, but they're pretty known. Check out the Aftermath any chance you get. They are an awesome band.

Sean: Right now is primary season. Are you guys in any way political?

Ryan: We're very political but politics and hc we don't mix.

You'd never hear me preach. I'm very political, but I'm not

gonna tell you which

way I'm swinging on

it. Its just how I am.

I don't want to mix

my politics or my

views. I mean alot of

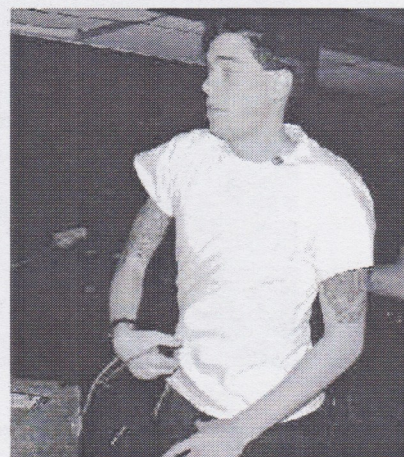
people, get power

about religion and

politics. So thats like

two things I try and

keep clear of hardcore.



Sean: There is alot of religious hardcore coming out now.

How do you feel about that. Does it belong in hardcore?

Ryan: Religious hardcore is no different, I mean its different, but its just a genre of hardcore. Such as straightedge hardcore or metal hardcore. Their just into religion. They sing about it and preach about it. Its no different than a band preaching about sxe for kids that are into sxe. So no I have no problem with religious bands in hardcore. They do what they want to do. Comeback kid I think is an awesome band. In the role of hardcore I dont see anything wrong with having religion in it. You can bring anything you want. Thats the cool thing about hardcore, you can do whatever you want, and bring your point of view to it. Thats what is really awesome about it. So no I have



no problems with it.

Sean: Do you own any camo shorts or like traditional youth crew stuff, such as Nike dunks or vintage shirts?

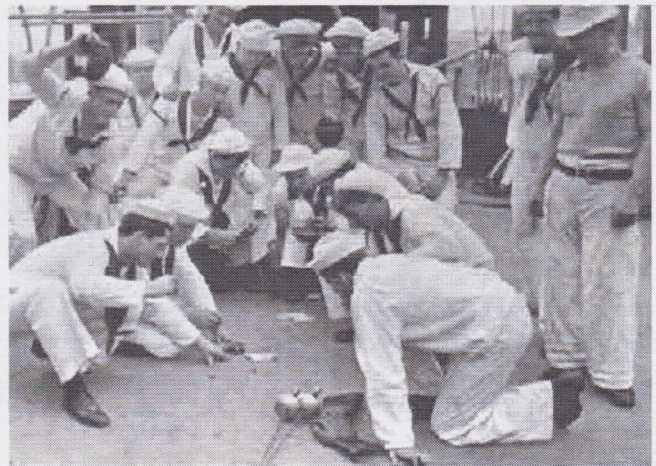
Ryan: My shirt collection is fucking stupid. I have alot of old shirts actually. All I wear is a white tshirt and blue shorts on stage for every show because I am weird. I mean I used to wear camo stuff. Theres nothing wrong with it. I love the youth crew movement. I love the scene. I love old bands. I mean thats what I love more than anything. Yeah Ive got alot of old shit like that. Thats my favorite time. Thats what I grew up listening to. Hell I love it.

Sean: How do you feel about the new metal influenced hardcore. Its sort of strayed from its roots. How do you feel about that? Is it hardcore? Or is it a different genre?

Ryan: Exactly I think it is a different flavor. A different genre of hardcore. Hardcore if it stayed one style would become stagnant. You can't keep playing the same 3 chords over and over again. So people add metal to it. People make melodic hardcore. People add variations to it. Thats what makes the scene keep going. Spinning off new bands doing new things. I think that is what really keeps the scene keep going. Theres alot of metal hardcore bands that I love. I love metal hardcore bands. I think they're awesome.

Sean: So are you up on gambling, or are you in the hole pretty deep? (throughout the interview as stated before they were rollin some dice)

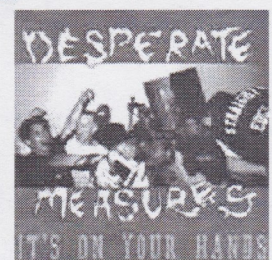
Ryan: I'm always up on gambling. I got a fucking RULE for everyone out there. IF YOUR LOSING DIG DEEPER. THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL GET OUT IS TO KEEP ON DIGGING.



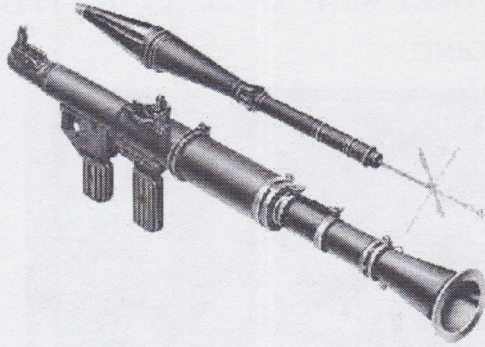
check out these sites

<http://www.youngblood-records.com/>

www.desperate-measures.net



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customers world wide. Pol Pot , cambodia "Best weapon Ive ever used, guarenteed to clear out a village of peasants in no time" errrrr oops. On to the next one. Rocco says "I cleared out the pit at the hatebreed concert of all these new jack nu metal kids, two thumbs up!"

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NYHC GROCERIES

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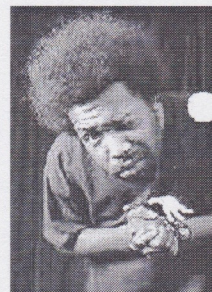
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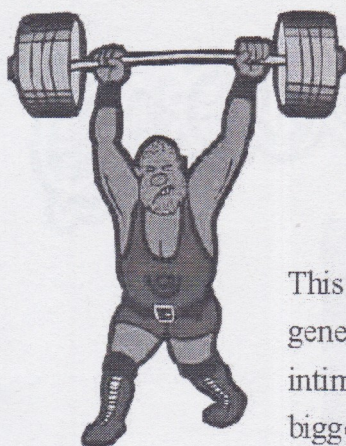


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WEIGHTLIFTING

This is a section dedicated to weightlifting. It will cover techniques, routines and just a general promotion of weightlifting. Lets face it, hardcore and weightlifting are intimately linked. How can you clear out a pit if you can't do a pushup? Besides the bigger you get the more tatoos you can have (kill two birds with one stone)

There are numerous different ways to lift weights and see results (ie increased strength and muscularity). I prefer to do quick and fast workouts. Also I do lower weights but more rep sets. I feel this gives me a better pump than lifting heavy weights only a few times. I do incorporate that heavy lifting in once a week for a changeup.

MON-run and stairmaster TUES-upper body WEDS-run again THURS-upperbody SAT-upperbody

A typical upper body workout is like this

TUES

60 tricep pulldowns 6x10 at 60 to 80lbs
30 overhead tricep pulls 3x10 at 50lbs
40 dips
30 tricep kickbacks at 20lbs
40 rows 4x10 at 100 to 120lbs
30 shoulder flys 3x10 at 20lbs
40 front pec flys using the cables 4x10 at 45lbs
40 pushups

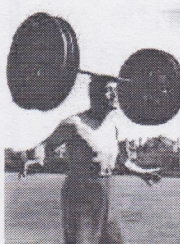
THURS

bicep curls using the 70lb bar 4x10
dumbbell curls 40lb 4x10
using the cables simulate dumbbell curls 45lb 3x10
using the cables upper crossovers (for the pecs) 50lb
lower crossovers 40lb 3x10
fly machine 95lb 3x10
50 pushups

A typical running day is like this

MON

Run for 2 miles at about an 8 minute mile pace
do the stairmaster for 20 minutes
walk for 10 minutes to cool down
and this is key please SHOWER promptly....its sad I even have to say this but people just don't get the hint sometime.



Give it awhile
<-----before you try this



This is bad.....if this happens you're in -----> trouble!!!!

AMERICAN MURDER STORY



American Murder Story is a five member band out of Rochester NY. They are a relatively new band having been around for about two years now. They are also some of the best dudes involved in Rochester hardcore. Oh yeah, my brother is in the band too. Lately things have been going quite well for the kids in the band. They have solidified a lineup and are looking to play out more. I interviewed Bryan (guitars) and Kyle (drummer). Without further ado.....

Tell me about the band?

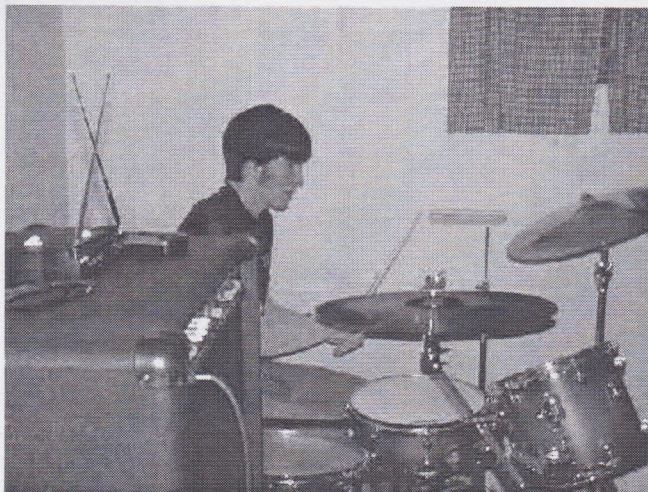
BRYAN: We've been around for a little over two years if memory serves me right. It started with me and kyle just messing around in his basement. We managed to quickly sucker three more people into our band Chris, Tom and Steve. Its taken a while to really get going because for a year we were all in different schools in different cities and it was just a pain in the ass to practice or play a show, but we kept it together. Now we're all closer to home, with the exception of kyle who'll be back soon,

and we can really start getting off the ground.

KYLE: American murder story is a 5 piece hardcore band, no more, no less.

What were you guys known as and why did you decide to change your name?

KYLE: well, there was a band called the awakening that had already put out a 7" so from that we became years of our youth. Then I went off to school, came back and the band was called American murder story.



BRYAN: First, this is absolutely the last name change we will go through. We dropped the awakening because there was already a band from Ohio who beat us to it. We dropped years of our youth because we all really liked American Murder Story. So we settled on that. It's not like anyone will remember us under the other names anyway.

How has your sound evolved as the band has been around longer?

BRYAN: We started off with just me on guitar, but moved Chris to second guitar and brought Tom in on bass to really fill out our sound. We began as a fast old school band but have evolved, or gotten better. We're still fast and keep our old school sound but our songs are more complex and more melodic. Who knows, maybe we'll all decide it's just about getting girls and go pop, I've got some crazy Saves the Day rip off songs I've been dying to try out.

KYLE: the addition of a second guitarist has given our songs a lot more body and melody. Also, I think that everyone's musical ability has dramatically increased since we started out.

What have you put out in the way of records or demos?

KYLE: we have a 6 song cd ep out on in a heartbeat records as years of our youth

BRYAN: We have just finished up a demo as American Murder Story and we go into the studio to record a full length in early June. Hopefully people will be able to see us on tour in July.

What label are you on now?

BRYAN: We are on the one and only enterprise records. Josh is a real cool kid and we look forward to working with him.

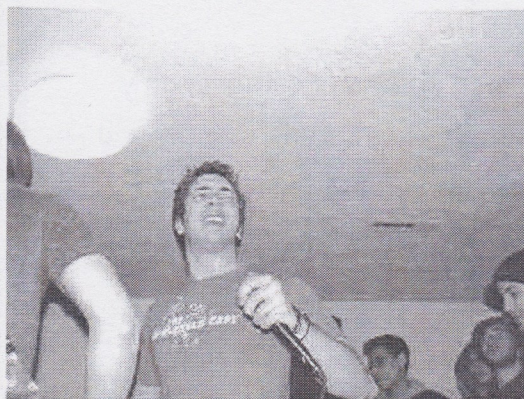
Have any of you guys been in other bands?

KYLE: I haven't, but there's some on the horizon

BRYAN: Chris and Tom are in a band called trincity sunrise.

What are your plans for the future?

BRYAN: I plan on getting this record label thing me and my brother have started up. AMS will keep going until we die of old age or kill each other. I hope I'll be into hardcore and be at the shows for many years.



KYLE: to live in the woods and grow a beard
Will you be touring outside of Rochester
anytime this year?

KYLE: yes, east coast summer tour is in the
works. If anyone wants to help us out please
do so!

BRYAN: We are supposed to be on tour
the month of July to promote our full length
which should come out in June.

**Are there any bands out there or in
rochester that you want to let people out
there know about?**

KYLE: hit the lights from Syracuse are a
very good up and coming band. Also, keep
your eyes and ears peeled for blank check
and case closed in 04!

BRYAN: Definitely Bad Business, hands
down the finest band to come out of
Rochester in a while.

**Whats the deal with the positops/camo
shorts song?**

BRYAN: It was a joke for one show, we
played the song but didnt have lyrics for it
yet. It was a cheesy old school joke, and it
was a nu metal show so we were the only
ones laughing.

KYLE: dude, camo shorts are thoroughly
massive, if you didn't know that by now you
might as well give up. Those lyrics were
made up on the spot as a joke, they are not

the real lyrics to the song.



**Why did you rejoin the band after your
hiatus due to schooling in the adirondacks?**

KYLE: well, I don't think I technically left
the band, I just went a little ways away for
school. There's a lot of hardcore bands that
deal with that type of stuff. I really like the
band so I want to be a part of it. I wanted to
get a job out west this summer, but because
of touring that's not going to happen. I'm sure
I'll have a good time though.

BRYAN: I'm glad he came back. Kyle is the
most core/posi kid i know or ever will know.

**How do you feel about the hardcore scene
in general today?**

BRYAN: Im not old, only 19, but I guess ive
been around for a bit since my first show was
when i was 12. Everyone says they hate it
when old guys talk about how good it was back
in the day. I guess id hate that too, but
rarely if ever do i hear that. Maybe i just
dont hang out with old enough dudes.
Hardcore is like

everything else, there's the good, the bad and the ugly. Its always been like this and nobody can tell me there was some magical time when every hardcore band they saw kicked ass. Im really into hardcore, so to me the scene has and always will be amazing. I love the people and I love the music.

KYLE: I'm very excited about hardcore, meeting new friends, seeing good bands and having good times. Its easy to focus on some lame drama or whatever, but the fact of the matter is that there are a ton of kids that care about the scene and a ton of bands I like out there.

How do you feel about the rochester scene?

KYLE: Compared to some other scenes I've seen I really like Rochester because its real laid back, has a pretty strong diy ethic, and isn't full of a bunch of people competing for power or status by dancing hard and hurting people. All in all, many good times have been had at shows in Rochester.

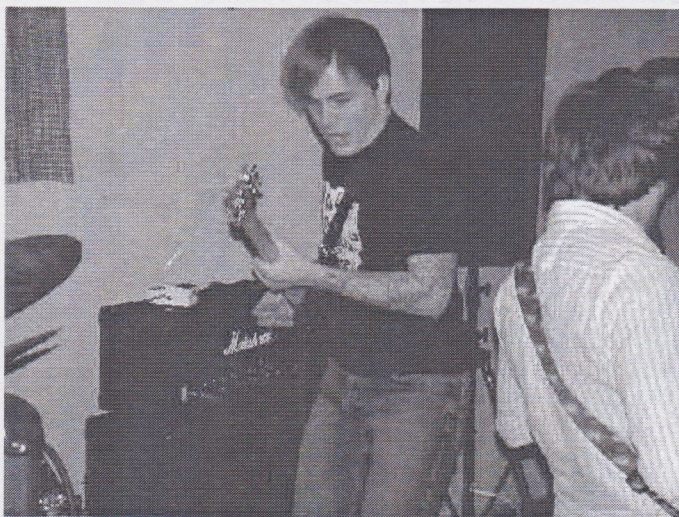
BRYAN: Rochesters great, and its right between Buffalo and Syracuse, its like you get to sample three scenes at once. Good kids and good bands.

Do you think that you might get a better response outside of this city?

BRYAN: Probably, but we havent really played any big shows in Rochester yet where most of the hardcore kids can see us, so who knows if they like us or not. We dont have a lot of hype, but we are an awesome band. I

guess we'll just have to get out of Rochester and see

KYLE: I think in general the new songs will get a better response regardless of where we play because they are better written and I think we're playing tighter these days.



Have you ever wrestled a bear?

KYLE: no, but I have thrown rocks at one because it was trying to eat my food. Lets just say I was pretty hungry when I hiked into town the following morning.

BRYAN: Well i havent, but i think we're all hoping kyle has or will in the near future.

What is your coolest hc or non hc related story?

BRYAN: Coolest hardcore related story, I was maybe 14 or 15 and i was watching All Out War. Some big guy was moshing it up, and i think i was one of the only ones standing up at what would normally be the bubble that forms around those dancing. You know how people will

throw themselves from side to side to clear the pit. Well somehow he gets it in his head to start clearing the floor to make way for some crazy wind mills. I think you get the point, i mean im one of the only ones there that needs to be "cleared". Needless to say me and a couple other daring souls got clobbered. Why did i ever go to such a bad show in the first place.

Coollest non hardcore related story. Cant think of one, man my life sucks.

KYLE: I don't really have any epic tales, sorry.



Favorite band?

KYLE: Very hard to say, probably gorilla biscuits or youth of today

BRYAN: Favorite band not around anymore, Kid Dynamite, Favorite band still kicking, Comeback Kid

Whose better shark attack or carry on?

BRYAN: Carry on

KYLE: carry on. Without a doubt.

Beards yay or nay?

KYLE: There are very few things I would want more in this world than a beard. Sadly my genetics won't let it happen.

BRYAN: Definitely yay. Id grow another one, but the government would make me shave it after 28 days. Anyone in the reserves knows what im talking about.

Scarves an abomination or suave fashion statement?

BRYAN: Well i dont know, i mean our singer wears one, i hope its just to keep warm.



REVIEWS

These are not going to be all new albums. Some will be, however the others are just albums you may not have been exposed to before.

Rating System



Comatose



Toe tapping and a slight head bob



Floorpunching and singalongs shall ensue



Teeth shall be broken, noses smashed, and prosthetic limbs shall be ripped away from their owners and used as blunt weapons



Something akin to a prison riot will break out. Enter the pit at your own risk. Make sure to wear your helmet and safety gear kiddies.

Zine Reviews

Hardcore Ink 6: An excellent color magazine dedicated to showing pictures of hc kids tatoos. Not only that, but they interview sweet bands such as Champion and Dag Nasty. They also review albums. I am surprised such an obscure niche could receive its own very polished mag. I actually purchased this at the Ft Drum Army PX. Count me as a subscriber now though. A very solid read.

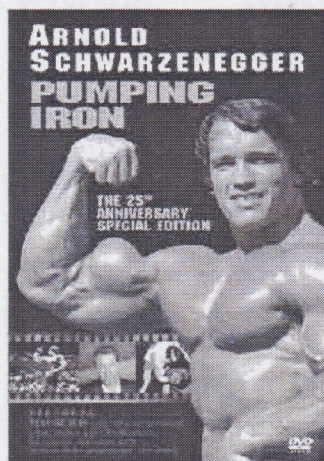
xFINAL WORDx 3: Is a zine out of syracuse. Dedicated to 88 style hardcore for the most part. He does interview Madball and Death Threat though. A very well done zine. It is cut and paste and 48 pages. Some of the sanctimonious "It was better back in the day" rants are a little tiring. The parts I found most interesting were: the madball interview, an article on girls in the scene by a female promoter in the cuse and the posi numbers recap. Over all a good read.

DVD Reviews

Boston Beatdown 1: I waited quite a while to finally get my hands on a copy of this tough guy must watch. There aren't as many fights as i expected, but there were some really decent ones. There was lots of porn though.....so many scene sluts taking it off to hardcore music.....pure genius. The best part though had to have been the guy who performed home based surgery. He stitches up a minor cut on his face by himself. Then he moves onto the guy with the gaping stab wound. He sews up a rather large wound on this dude.....I cant believe it never got infected. Also includes a cool interview with buddha from blood for blood.

Guerrilla Warfare Video Zine (Diversity): This is probably the best video i have seen yet on hc. Very well produced. Has footage and interviews with Shattered Realm, Everybody Gets Hurt, On the Rise, Kill Your Idols, and Inhuman. Its really interesting to see how

people dance in the jersey scene. Also included are scene related snippets, such as old flyers and webzines. I must have watched this video 50 times overseas. Really well done.



Pumping Iron: This is the first time this documentary has been released on dvd. It is the 25th anniversary special edition. For the most part it explores Arnold's (do i even need to type out his last name) last year in professional

bodybuilding. He is competing for his 6th Mr Olympia title. His main nemesis is Lou Ferrigno (of incredible hulk fame). This is the movie that introduced Arnold to Hollywood. It is a pretty informative look into the ultracompetitive world of bodybuilding. If you enjoy weightlifting you will enjoy this.

CD Reviews

King of Clubz Demo: This is a demo. A very well produced one at that. Play this in your car and frighten the elderly. Sounds similar to Earthmover and Walls of Jericho. Even has WOJ lead singer do back up vocals on a song. "This song goes out to all the hard muthafuckas..."



Redline "Moments of Truth": Brutal tough guy shit. Their pits must be littered with more broken bodies than a mass grave. Hard vocals and brutal breakdowns, doesn't get any better than this.



Modern Life is War "My Love, My Way": These guys are from Iowa and rock more than a blond virgin barely legal Iowa farm girl. They remind me of The Suicide File alot. A very solid release. Unfortunately I have yet to see them. I have heard their live shows are off the hook.



Think I Care S/T: Another really good massachussets "old school" band. What is it about that part of the country and producing awesome music? Must be all the new england clam chowdaaaah they eat. Has that prototypical boston sound. Has some pretty decent dance parts too.

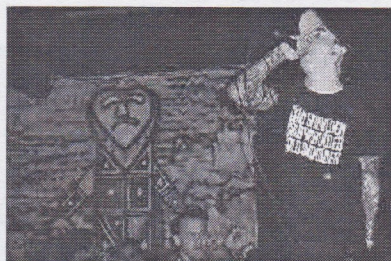


25 ta Life "Best of Friends/Enemies": A little more metalcorish than their past offerings. My favorite song is the first track "fight dirty". With lyrics like "fight, fight, fight, fight dirty, what goes around comes around, you stepped up and your on the ground" how can you go wrong. I dont like the song though where Rick adds a singing part.....just reminds me too much of this numetal garbage that is seeping into the scene. Overall a good record with a few spotty areas.



Skaretactic "Remember When": A new band out of california. Not the typical metal stuff that one would expect from that state however. It is tough guy hardcore done very well. After they play there are probably less teeth left in the crowd than at an Alabaman family reunion. Good to see new bands keeping up the torch of REAL core. Put out on Thorpe Records. Lately this label has been signing some great bands. They recently signed Madball and

Blood for Blood.



xDisciple ADx "The Revelation": Tough sounding Erie Christian hardcore. They are apparently calling it quits soon. One of the biggest christian bands around right now. Though their appears to be a proliferation of them recently. This trends toward metalcore with very brutal breakdowns. If you like any records on Facedown you'll dig this.



**SECOND
TO
NONE**



Second To None "Defeat": A NJ tough guy band from the 90's. This was released by Cartel Records just recently. To know what these guys

are all about just check out the back of the cd. 30 dudes with bats, dogs and puffy coats. They and fury of five really epitomized 90s jersey tough guy hc. "If you dont want to get beat the fuck up, Then shut the fuck up and step the fuck back"



Seventh Star "Dead End": Pretty decent tough guy christian hardcore. The songs on this arent preachy though which is a plus. The topics deal with your standard fare of sellouts, being stabbed in the back and remaining true. These guys were here in december with the Hoods. Its too bad I missed them due to heavy snows.



Dead and Buried "The Company I Keep": This is a band from delaware on Spook City Records. A lot of chugga chugga metalcore tough guy. Off the top of my head they sound similar to One Second Thought. Plus they have, how shall I say it.....a heavy singer. You cant have proper tough guy vocals unless your singer is either "heavy" or jacked. I knew right when i opened the insert what this dudes vocals would sound like. This probably incites a hundred little Van Dammes into pit kickboxing action. Minus of course the crappy accent and lack of talent.



Wolfbrigade "In Darkness You Feel No Regrets":

Sort of youth crewish hardcore but with harsher vocals than i would normally associate with youth crew. They are from sweden I believe. They even sing in their native language on a few songs. This is a big plus in my eyes. I hate foreign bands that sing in english.....why not sing in your own language. We don't sing in swedish so why should you sing in english? Sounds like Poison Idea and Kill Your Idols.



No Retreat "Rise of the Underdog": Pittsburgh HARDcore. The cover has a soldier with a grimace and a gun.....never a good combo. Has that PAHC sound. Similar to Krutch and Strength for a Reason but a little slower.



Hoods "Pray for Death": A band that's been around for awhile but never seems to get its due. Recently they've been touring a lot so hopefully that changes. Also they are now signed to Victory Records. Hopefully that will give them even added exposure.



Inhuman "Black Reign": A short album with only 7 songs. NYHC but with a unique twist. I think I like the live songs the best. Sort of melodic like On The Rise. Overall pretty decent.



Some Kind of Hate "Undisputed": Their debut full length release. Good fast mass hardcore. You know the deal. You won't be seeing guys in girls

pants at their shows. Their lyrics deal with the typical topics like being stabbed in the back. Not groundbreaking, however I think that was their point. Just put out a good hardcore album.



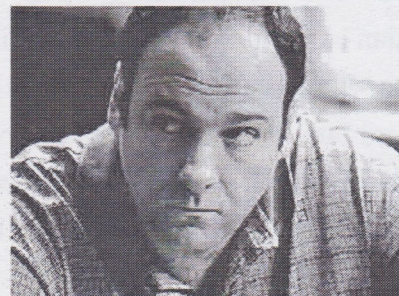
ShotPointBlank "Kill Breath Kill": Tough guy hardcore from Australia. Pure pit spinkicking action. Call out the national guard we have a riot on our hands. Brings the mosh.



Embrace Today "Soldiers": They sound similar to Terror I think. They used to have more of a youth crewish sound. In addition they are very dedicated to the edge....very dedicated indeed. The couple of times I have seen them they start off the show with a "fuck you I'm edge..."



Dead Wrong "Hellbomb": A six song ep on stillborn records. Sort of generic metal type tough guy hardcore. Nothing really to set them apart from the pack.



Over My Dead Body "Rusty Medals and Broken Badges":

Very catchy 88 style hardcore out of california. I just can't get enough of this style of hardcore. More fun than tossing midgets. The sixth song "To the core" is sort of ironic though. They talk about remaining true and use carry on as an example....though who am I to talk.



Sworn Enemy "As Real As It Gets":

The albums name says it all. This release is straight up hardcore. Now has ex-members of Cold as Life. Who as an aside played in Rochester like 5 or 6 years ago and only like 10 people showed up. Yeah Rochester

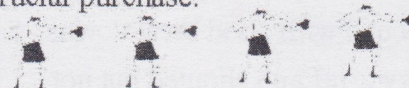
has a habit of not supporting good bands coming through. Well anyways back to sworn enemy, these guys are pretty big now. They've toured alot with hatebreed and other bigger bands. I can see the cross over appeal they'd have with the long hairs. However make no mistake this is 100% hardcore. If you dig Out To Win, Madball or Hatebreed. One of the best releases of 2003. Warning contains some of the hardest breakdowns you've ever heard. Buy it or have

your scene credentials revoked.



24

Outburst "Miles to Go": This is a reissue of a classic NYHC album. This is late 80s style NYHC. Very tough sounding with good breakdowns. A crucial purchase.



Burning Bridges "The Best Revenge": These guys are from albany. They play metalcore type sounding music. I was supposed to go to their last show with slapshot however it was canceled due to snow. Too bad they are broken up now.



Wake Up Cold "Deliver Me From Evil": A very tough release from very tough looking guys. I believe they are from Baltimore. With lyrics like "Not being like others those MTV lovers. Being yourself is the name of the game." how can you go wrong.



Stout "NGMF": The cover has a graveyard and the cd has an automatic weapon on it....hmmm if I had to hazard a guess I'd guess tough guy hardcore. Oh shit

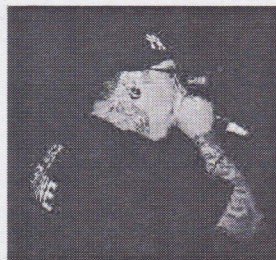
what a surprise I was right. All the elements of a solid release: breakdowns, breakdowns and tuff vocals.



Bad Business 7 inch: These guys are definitely one of the best bands ever to come out of rochester. The seven inch has six really well done songs. Sort of has that boston old school sound with good breakdowns. I love the vocals too. Very gruff and shouted but not screamed. They are releasing a cd soon with all of the songs on this on the cd as well. Buy it.



PunchYourFace Demo: They have like 3 singers in this band. It works better than one would think. Also they have guys from GFY. They sound very similar to the aforementioned band. I dug them when I saw them down at CBGBs. Then again though I would dig listening to a stuck pig squeal if: it wore a jersey, had tats and wore puffy coats. Seriously though for a demo it is pretty decent.



Pride Kills "Life of Hate": These guys are from the lone star state. It is a 6 song ep. Very tough. Meets my tough guy standards. "what its like you'll never know. So keep your shit out of my show." good stuff



Bloodties "S/T": Another tough guy moshable album. Man what to say.....I'm running out of one liners here. OK here goes, more fun than watching gary coleman



trying to run for governor of california. Wow that was terrible.....even for me. Ok heres a description. Good breakdowns, fast, throaty raspy vocals, metalish. Good stuff.



If you want anything reviewed drop me a line at xxxpainedge99xxx@yahoo.com. I'm not going to publish my address for I DONT WANT THE EMO FAGARIO ARMY HUNTING ME DOWN. They are like the monsters under your bed.....believe it or not they do exist. Keep an eye out my loyal readers and keep on listening to real core.



WAR PIZZO

I Love
Nu-Metal



DOES THIS PICTURE *TERRIFY* YOU!?!?!?
WELL IT SHOULD!

Loyal readers I urge you to be on the LOOKOUT for these "nu-metal" kids. If you spot one of them you are urged to call your local chapter of MANMF (Mothers Against Nu Metal Fags) at 1-888-KILL-THEM. In addition be forewarned that one should never approach them alone. They are known to not bathe regularly, break into fits of "moshing" so terrible it will offend your every sensibility, AND throw you one of those god awful devil horn hand signals. SO GO FORTH MY LOYAL READERS AND ELIMINATE THIS SCOURGE!!!!

USE A 50 CAL.....SHOW
NO MERCY!



Well this issue came out better than I could have hoped for. It definitely took more time than I had planned. However it was worth it. Trying to learn the software and transcribing interview notes from my digital voice recorder were by far the most time intensive aspects.

Hopefully you enjoyed reading this issue. If you didn't ah well sucks to be you. The next issue I am planning to have a few like minded people write a few columns, thereby easing the writing burden on me. I also plan on having more interviews and will bump up the page count to 32. If you ever wanted to put an ad here send me an email at xxxpainedge99xxx@yahoo.com. I have a print run of 400. It would be like 5 bucks to put in a half page ad. ALSO if you want to write something for this fanzine let me know. I would love to have people write columns here.

All the bands interviewed here deserve your support. They were all really awesome dudes. This is the first zine I've ever done. I was sort of hesitant to approach bands at first. I mean shows are busy places, the last thing you want to have happen is to be hounded by a zine writer. Thats what I originally thought. However it wasnt true in the least. All the bands I talked to were stoked for their interviews. They were all really nice dudes. Definitely check out my brothers band American Murder Story (I had to plug it....he's my brother).

Also I would appreciate any constructive feedback you have. What you liked? What you disliked? There are a few things I will be changing just based on what I liked and disliked from this issue. Feedback is always welcome. As always keep it core.

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